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**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**
Douglas P. Scott, Director

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# Sandwich Public Well Investigation

## Sandwich, Illinois

### Illinois EPA Investigation Results

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**What is the Sandwich public well investigation?** Sandwich has three public water supply wells that supply drinking water to Sandwich residents. Samples from two of these wells had shown low-level contamination by an industrial solvent called trichloroethylene (TCE). TCE is in a class of chemicals called volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) conducted an investigation in August 2005 to determine the source of this contamination.

**Is the drinking water provided by the Sandwich Public Water Supply safe to drink?** Yes. Sandwich treats the water from these two wells and does not distribute water to the public that violates U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) public water supply standards.

**What tasks were completed during the August 2005 study?** The Illinois EPA and Parsons Engineering Sciences, Inc (an Illinois EPA contractor) completed the following tasks during this study:

- sampled both the treated and the untreated water from all three of the Sandwich public water supply wells;
- sampled eight private wells in the vicinity of the public water supply wells;
- sampled three existing groundwater monitoring wells;
- collected soil and groundwater samples from potential sources of contamination and
- measured levels of groundwater in the private wells and monitoring wells to establish the direction of groundwater flow.

**What were the results from the three Sandwich public water supply wells?** All samples met U. S. EPA public water supply standards.

**What were the results of the private well sampling?** None of the wells, with one exception, had detectable levels of VOCs. The one well had a trace amount of one VOC which was far below the concentration set by the U. S. EPA as a standard for drinking water.

**What is the direction of groundwater flow?** Regional groundwater flow is to the southeast.

**What were the other investigation results?** Soil and groundwater samples taken near one potential source had concentrations of VOCs significantly higher than state standards.

Illinois
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**What will happen next?** The Illinois EPA believes further investigation is needed to determine potential sources and to better understand the groundwater flow of the area. Further soil and groundwater investigation will be completed by Illinois EPA during the Spring of 2007.

**Will the Illinois EPA sample additional private residential wells?** At this time there are no plans for further sampling of private residential wells.

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